

## REMARKS

This is intended as a full and complete response to the Office Action dated September 13, 2006 and to the Notice of Non-Responsive Amendment dated January 17, 2007. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the previously submitted amendments and entry of the following remarks in response to the Office Action.

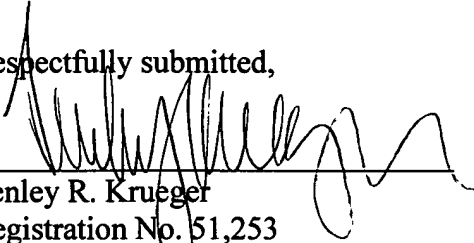
### CLAIM REJECTIONS:

Claims 1-3, 26-28 and 50-51 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Japanese Patent No. 64-47878 ('878). Claims 4-15, 19-21, 23-25, 29-40 and 44-49 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over '878. Claim 22 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over '878 in view of U.S. Pat. No. 6,007,761 (*Nakagawa*). Claims 1-21 and 23-51 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant's Admitted Prior Art in view of '878. Claim 22 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant's Admitted Prior Art in view of '878 and further in view of *Nakagawa*.

Applicants respectfully request a complete translation of '878. However, absent the entire translation, Applicants submit that the translated abstract of '878 does not teach, show or suggest forming a devolatilizer nozzle, as recited in the pending claims. (*The specification defines a devolatilizer nozzle in paragraph 5. "One method of reducing the volatile content of (i.e., devolatilizing) such polymers involves increasing the exposed surface area of the resin and accordingly promoting the release of volatiles. An apparatus commonly employed in this operation is known as a devolatilizer nozzle."*) Further, the Office Action states that "regarding the limitations pertaining to the capacity of the nozzle, a recitation of the intended use of the claimed invention must result in a structural difference between the claimed invention and the prior art". However, Applicants submit that "capacity" suggests that something is flowing therethrough, herein a volatile component, resulting in a structural difference. Further, Applicants respectfully submit that one skilled in the art would not look to nozzles made for spinning chemical synthetic fibres as in the '878 abstract to determine devolatilizer nozzle design. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections.

Having addressed all issues set out in the Office Action, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request the same. The prior art made of record is noted. However, it is believed that the secondary references are no more pertinent to the Applicants' disclosure than the primary references cited in the Office Action. Therefore, it is believed that a detailed discussion of the secondary references is not deemed necessary for a full and complete response to this Office Action. Accordingly, allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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